

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
vs.	:	NO: 99-CV-1435 GAG
	:	
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO,	:	
PUERTO RICO POLICE DEPARTMENT,	:	
	:	
Defendants	:	

TRANSCRIPT OF PART 1 - FOURTH PUBLIC HEARING ON POLICE REFORM  
HELD BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE GUSTAVO A. GELPÍ  
JOSÉ V. TOLEDO U.S. COURTHOUSE, OLD SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016, BEGINNING AT 1:15 P.M.

## A P P E A R A N C E S :

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section  
300 N. Los Angeles Street  
Federal Building, Suite 7516  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
BY LUIS E. SAUCEDO, ESQUIRE  
For the Plaintiffs

LAW OFFICE OF GERARDO A. De-JESUS-ANNONI  
P.O. Box 51  
Ceiba, Puerto Rico 00735  
For Defendant Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and  
Puerto Rico Police Department

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE-FEDERAL LITIGATION DIVISION  
P.O. Box 9020192  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902  
BY JOEL TORRES-ORTÍZ  
For Defendant Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and  
Puerto Rico Police Department

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Sonia Cardona, Courtroom Deputy  
Carlos Lao, Spanish Interpreter

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 (The Court enters the room.)

THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

The United States District Court for the  
District of Puerto Rico is now in session. The  
Honorable Judge Gustavo A. Gelpí presiding. All  
those having business before this Court shall draw  
near, give your attention and you shall be heard.  
God save the United States of America and this  
Honorable Court.

10 (Address the public in English.)

11                   THE COURT: Please be seated. Good  
12 afternoon. Let's have my courtroom deputy please  
13 call the matter for this afternoon.

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 leave to address everybody in Spanish and everybody  
2 else who will be addressing the Court will do so in  
3 Spanish. But, again, the official record is in  
4 English and it's simultaneous. That way we will  
5 avoid interruptions and we will proceed in a much  
6 shorter manner.

7 (Address the public in Spanish.)

8 Good afternoon, to all. Thank you for being  
9 here. Above all, I want to recognize the presence of  
10 the governor of Puerto Rico. It's a pleasure for the  
11 Court. And the governor is going to be here to be  
12 able to share his experience from the context of the  
13 reform of the Police of Puerto Rico.

14 I want to also recognize the presence of  
15 Counsel Saucedo from the Department of Justice who is  
16 here; Attorney César Miranda, Secretary of Justice;  
17 Superintendent José Caldero, superintendent of the  
18 police and the advisor of the Department of Justice;  
19 and other personnel from the Puerto Rico Police. And  
20 we all know them very well, so I'm not going to do  
21 make a long introduction greeting each and every one.

22 So, just to give you a background, I want to  
23 state that this afternoon, this hearing, is probably  
24 sui generis because it's the first time that a  
25 governor in power in Puerto Rico appears of his own

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 initiative to the United States District Court to  
2 state his opinion on an issue of such importance as  
3 the reform of the police. This not only lacks of  
4 precedence but it's a historic event, and I feel  
5 totally satisfied to have the privilege of presiding  
6 over this hearing.

7 Before going into specific which make this  
8 hearing very significant, I want to talk a little bit  
9 about the real reason for which we're all present  
10 here and obviously it is this police reform.

11 As we all know, the Puerto Rico Police began  
12 a transformation process because of the signing of  
13 the agreement between the United States and the  
14 government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This  
15 agreement for a sustainable reform of the police of  
16 Puerto Rico aspires for a fundamental change to what  
17 it means being a member of the Puerto Rico police.

18 So much so that it would turn the members of  
19 the police and agent into catalyst of change to keep  
20 equilibrium, a balance, between the struggle with  
21 criminal activity and statutes of the state that  
22 limit its intermission to the private lives of  
23 citizens. The Puerto Rico Police member not only has  
24 a challenge to serve the community, sustain law and  
25 order, but also ensuring that the state will observe

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 those limitations, those that we colloquially know as  
2 civil rights.

3 In the beginning, the agreement appears to  
4 be a list of procedures to follow and reach a  
5 professional attitude within the police career.

6 These instructions are organized by subjects. And  
7 these subjects are: Professionalism; use of force;  
8 search and seizures; equal protection of the laws and  
9 zero discrimination; recruitment, selection and  
10 appointments; policies and procedures; trainings;  
11 administrative supervision; internal affairs;  
12 administrative and disciplinary complaints;  
13 interaction with the community; public information;  
14 and technology information systems.

15 However, this agreement does not limit  
16 itself to only a list of steps. On the contrary,  
17 these are the steps that are done strategically to  
18 ensure that the goal can be reached. And one of the  
19 first goals is the training of the agency, the Puerto  
20 Rico Police.

21 The police accepted the responsibility of  
22 investing its first four years in developing its  
23 training to ensure the continuity of the process  
24 without the intervention of external elements to the  
25 agency. It's precisely this period in which the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 police is in right now.

2 This isn't an easy task. It requires true  
3 commitment and the utmost diligence all so that the  
4 Police of Puerto Rico can reach that day in which it  
5 would be capable of tending to what is expected of  
6 them.

7 As an example, as recently as last week, an  
8 unexpected event came to light which put the full  
9 magnitude of the process of the Reform. The  
10 technical compliance advisor, Colonel Claudio, and  
11 Colonel Clementina Vega, who are here present,  
12 traveled to the Municipality of Peñuelas to speak to  
13 the people that were protesting in front of the  
14 Peñuelas landfill. There were also interested  
15 parties present: The company, the public. The  
16 result was that Colonel Claudio and Colonel Vega  
17 served to ensure that the participation of the police  
18 was in accordance to its duties and needs of society.

19 Of course the situation in Peñuelas required  
20 an extraordinary situation before it became something  
21 that was irreversible. However, the office of the  
22 police reform and Superintendent Caldero and everyone  
23 acted with expediency to stabilize the situation.  
24 And all this occurred between Sunday and Monday and  
25 it was resolved officially. So, that's an example of

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 how little by little things are done and achieved  
2 here and eventually without a monitor.

3 And we can appreciate that The Reform is  
4 something continuous where everybody who does work in  
5 the process does it without rest at every moment,  
6 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year --  
7 and if it's a leap year, then 364.

8 So, this isn't a reform just on paper; it's  
9 something that has to be done completely and fully.  
10 That has been the result of the work and message  
11 going into the agreement.

12 As we enter into the content of the  
13 Agreement, we have to recognize that the agreement is  
14 much more than a list of orders. It's an invitation  
15 to do something that it's transcendental. It is a  
16 change of ideology, a completely radical approach to  
17 what it means to be an officer of the Puerto Rico  
18 Police. This is a great task to be done.

19 We must remember that governmental  
20 intercession is as resistive to change as those who  
21 would compose it. However, this is the progress that  
22 the agency wants where change has to be received and  
23 be done in an active and positive manner. Regarding  
24 this, we recognize that The Reform can be a very  
25 rigorous task to which an agency has been submitted

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 not only in Puerto Rico but in all the United States.

2 So, that's something that we recognize and we  
3 applaud.

4 In the meanwhile, the Puerto Rico Police has  
5 mobilized everybody to be able to accomplish the  
6 creation of many mechanisms that simply did not exist  
7 before The Reform. For example, the policy governing  
8 the use of force, search and seizure. This policy is  
9 accompanied by the implementation of non-lethal  
10 weapons such as Taser, pepper gas, in addition to the  
11 training and design of these. If we look at the  
12 nightsticks, they're not like the ones which existed  
13 before which looked like baseball bats. They are  
14 retractable, they're not as lethal but they're just  
15 as effective. The firearm has stopped being the only  
16 alternative to deter crime.

17 And as a judge, I can say that I've seen a  
18 drastic reduction in the last years of cases where a  
19 police officer has been sued because of a death, and  
20 I foresee that they will continue to go down because  
21 of The Reform.

22 The police have also reopened the  
23 disciplinary actions in the police and they've been  
24 drafted according to the agreement. And it's  
25 something that recognizes the rights of the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 complainants while they just see improvements in its  
2 procedures consistently. Training has been a notable  
3 and enviable area of progress; it's training that we  
4 can see the implementation of the best practice to  
5 adopt them to be able to do them day-by-day.

6 The Puerto Rico Police also has opted to  
7 improve its relationship with the community  
8 implementing policy which safeguards the rights of  
9 all human beings be it equal protection,  
10 nondiscrimination, just like I've extended the  
11 opportunity to groups to be part of the process. The  
12 agency has also improved transparency to keep the  
13 public informed on The Reform process all for the  
14 betterment of the people of Puerto Rico.

15 Now, we obviously know this is a monumental  
16 task and that's why the capability-building period  
17 exists and this has also allowed the agency to learn  
18 new ideas, better practices guaranteeing  
19 constitutional rights while at the same time looking  
20 to serve the taxpayers much better helping them feel  
21 safer in their homes.

22 In the last two years the effort -- which I  
23 believe has been almost three years. The efforts of  
24 the parties to reach compliance with the agreement  
25 has been successful such that the parties, the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 monitor, and this Court have backed the efforts of  
2 the police at all times. That's why today with great  
3 expectation the Court is willing to open dialog with  
4 the governor of Puerto Rico, Honorable Alejandro  
5 García-Padilla, so that he can share his opinions  
6 touching on all issues concerning The Reform.

7 And we're specifically paying attention to  
8 the difficulties that he's had and the ones that will  
9 come. And I think it's very important -- and I hope  
10 that this serves as precedent that the governor in  
11 office at least once or twice every quarter can come  
12 to this court and share his perspective and ideas  
13 regarding the process; because it's not the same to  
14 have the Court mediating and ensuring that the  
15 agreement is complied with and the day-to-day  
16 negotiations of the parties and the government of  
17 Puerto Rico that certainly involves the governor.  
18 So, we hope that this is a positive precedent and the  
19 next governors who come will also appear here with  
20 some frequency.

21 Before presenting the governor formally --  
22 and I have a brief biography -- I'd like to take the  
23 opportunity to present Attorney General César  
24 Miranda, Secretary of Justice; and Attorney Luis  
25 Saucedo from the federal Department of Justice. I'll

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 give you each some time to address the Court for the  
2 record. Counsel Saucedo, if you want to go first.

3 MR. SAUCEDO: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

4 May it please the Court. Luis Saucedo for the United  
5 States.

6 I want to thank Governor García-Padilla,  
7 Secretary Miranda, Superintendent Caldero, security  
8 advisor, all Commonwealth staff, guests, and the  
9 technical compliance advisor for being here today.

10 We also want to thank the Court for holding todays  
11 hearing to hear the governor's unique perspective on  
12 critical reforms that are underway.

13 Just over three years ago, Former Attorney  
14 General Eric Holder and Governor García-Padilla at  
15 Fortaleza came together to sign this historic  
16 settlement agreement. Since signing the agreement,  
17 the parties have worked together to implement its  
18 terms and promote broad participation among  
19 stakeholders, to ensure the agreement's success.

20 Implementation is no easy task. It will take time  
21 along with focused effort and sustained commitment,  
22 and it will take the active participation of the  
23 community.

24 The settlement agreement reflects many  
25 months of intense and detailed negotiations between

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 the Commonwealth and the Department of Justice. It  
2 charts a path forward for the Puerto Rico Police  
3 Department to ensure the protection of civil rights.  
4 It's important that these protections are embodied in  
5 its core values and that it's reflected as part of  
6 its policies, its training, and ultimately as part of  
7 its daily interactions with the residents of Puerto  
8 Rico. We hope the governor's remarks today help PRPD  
9 move forward towards professionalizing and  
10 modernizing the police department and ultimately  
11 towards verifiable compliance and sustainable reform.

12 We wish to thank the governor and his entire  
13 team for their cooperation. We recognize that Puerto  
14 Rico has continued to make significant investments in  
15 police reform even in the face of significant fiscal  
16 challenges. The governor has also continued to set a  
17 tone of collaboration between the parties and other  
18 stakeholders which has been a hallmark of this case  
19 from its inception.

20 We'd also like to thank all the men and  
21 women of the PRPD who are the front line of  
22 implementing this historic agreement and who have  
23 sworn to protect and serve the people of Puerto Rico.  
24 We would also like to thank all the individuals and  
25 community groups who have participated in The Reform

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 efforts and we look forward to working with many  
2 more. Some these individuals are here today and we  
3 know that they're looking for true change within the  
4 police department.

5 We will continue to meet and hear from  
6 individuals and other community stakeholders to  
7 ensure that implementation is resulting in meaningful  
8 reform and that PRPD is able to sustain these reforms  
9 for generations to come.

10 Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Attorney General,  
12 please.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MIRANDA: Good afternoon,  
14 Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MIRANDA: I completely  
17 adhere to the recognition, the acknowledgment, that  
18 Counsel Saucedo made. From the beginning of this  
19 reform we known we're living in historic times.

20 Again, as I've said, at all times this is  
21 the most important project that the people of Puerto  
22 Rico are going through right now because whatever  
23 ensures peace and quality of life of all Puerto  
24 Ricans definitely has to be what motivates us the  
25 most.

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1           We have had the pleasure of being the legal  
2 representative of the Puerto Rico Police throughout  
3 all this time. There isn't an adversarial event in  
4 this reform. The positions that we have assumed are  
5 consonant with the aspirations of the Department of  
6 Justice, the federal Department of Justice when the  
7 complaint was filed initially. But above all they're  
8 consonant with the aspirations that Puerto Ricans  
9 have had and this administration in reaching a better  
10 police for the people of Puerto Rico.

11           I have to state that, even in times of  
12 fiscal crises, the governor of Puerto Rico has never  
13 shied away from his economic obligations in order  
14 that this reform be a reality.

15           And, Your Honor, I also wanted to share with  
16 you my appreciation and how grateful I am for the  
17 court officers who have always been willing to lend a  
18 hand on all the occasions that has been necessary,  
19 resolve any difference that has arisen to be able to  
20 reach a middle point or any part of this agreement  
21 that The Reform has had.

22           So, my appreciation to Your Honor, to  
23 members of the court, and to Mr. Claudio, the TCA  
24 who's been working hand in hand with us, and to all  
25 those who have a total understanding of what's the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 applicable law in this agreement between the federal  
2 Department of Justice and us, the Department of  
3 Justice of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
4 Rico, the people of Puerto Rico who really has given  
5 us the opportunity to be able to conduct this event.  
6 It's one that's progressive, it will take time, but  
7 will definitely be for the betterment of the police  
8 of Puerto Rico and its citizens. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Attorney General.

11 Now I'm happy to present a brief biography  
12 of the governor of Puerto Rico, and then we'll go to  
13 what everybody has come here to see.

14 Governor García-Padilla was born on  
15 August 3, 1971. So, for whoever does the math, he  
16 recently had a birthday. And he's from Coamo but  
17 very few people know this. Even Wikipedia has this  
18 wrong because he was not born in Coamo, he was born  
19 in Ponce because there was no hospital in Coamo but  
20 he immediately moved to Coamo. Almost every governor  
21 of Puerto Rico has been born in Ponce. So, everybody  
22 who has aspirations, think about it.

23 He graduated from the University of Puerto  
24 Rico with a bachelor's degree in political science  
25 and economics. He later obtained a Juris Doctor from

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       the Inter-American University, thanks to his brother.

2       He was a dean at the University of Puerto Rico and he  
3       said, You're not going to apply here to study law.

4                  As an attorney, he showed his commitment for  
5       social and civil causes be it with the College of  
6       Attorneys of Puerto Rico, as well as the Commission  
7       on Women's Affairs. Then, as we all remember, he  
8       served a four-year term as the secretary of consumer  
9       affairs, DACO, which gave him a broad knowledge of  
10      administrative affairs.

11                 He, once again, came into public service  
12      when he became a senator. And as a member of the  
13      minority he presided over various commissions as part  
14      of the minority in that four-year term. One of the  
15      causes in which he participated was implementing a  
16      health model to tends to the needs of drug addiction  
17      to controlled substances.

18                 Governor García-Padilla was elected in  
19      November or 2012 becoming the tenth governor of  
20      Puerto Rico. And Governor Hernández-Colón always  
21      wants me to remind everyone that he was the second  
22      youngest assuming that position.

23                 During the months of the transition before  
24      assuming the position, as soon as he was sworn in, in  
25      January of 2013, the governor had to entertain the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 offer of the then Attorney General of the United  
2 States Eric Holder to settle a suit against the state  
3 for the violation of fundamental rights of citizens  
4 by the agency.

5 In June of 2013, the agreement was signed in  
6 this courthouse -- well, first in Fortaleza first and  
7 then this courthouse -- for a sustainable reform for  
8 the Puerto Rico Police. Because of this, the Court  
9 has a great interest in preserving the historical  
10 testimony of the governor because it's an instrument  
11 for all of us and specifically for those who still  
12 haven't reached the table and aren't familiar with  
13 the process. We're going to have new participants  
14 from the side of the governor next year and it's  
15 important that this historical record is here showing  
16 what we've been doing the last two or three years.

17 So, before the governor presents himself, I  
18 want to thank Attorney Maria Teresa Rivera-Corujo,  
19 who is the advisor on public safety, for having  
20 helped coordinate this hearing and being present in  
21 all the public hearings that we've had.

22 Also, I wanted to let the members of the  
23 press who are here and any other persons interested  
24 that the court has a photographer and Fortaleza also  
25 has a photographer. Obviously there's no pictures

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 allowed in this courtroom, but because this is a  
2 historical hearing, I've allowed the pictures that  
3 will be taken from the court which will be sent to  
4 the monitor, Colonel Claudio. Whomever is interested  
5 in the pictures can call him, by six o'clock they  
6 should be there. And if Fortaleza has some pictures  
7 they'd like to share, send it to the TCA and also to  
8 the office of communication of Fortaleza.

9 Now we're ready to begin. Governor, you're  
10 an attorney. I know you haven't stepped inside a  
11 courthouse in a long time. You're not being sued or  
12 cross-examined, so if you want to make any general  
13 comment to begin and then I have a few questions. I  
14 have sent you the questions before coming in so you  
15 can have an idea of the areas I wanted to cover.

16 So, welcome once again. It's a pleasure to  
17 have you here.

18 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Thank you, Your  
19 Honor. I have been wanting to say what I'm going to  
20 say for many years. May it please the Court.

21 THE COURT: Please go ahead. Or when you  
22 come back next year to address the Court. Welcome.

23 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Thank, Your Honor.  
24 And I'm already getting off script, but I would like  
25 to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 statements about the work that we have been doing in  
2 terms of the causes to advance the police reform, and  
3 also the statements of Attorney Saucedo on behalf of  
4 the Department of Justice of the United States of  
5 America.

6 I appreciate you allowing me to complement  
7 the historical record on these hearings and on this  
8 case. I would also like to greet the officers of the  
9 Department of Justice present, as well as those of  
10 the Civil Liberties Union, the monitor Colonel  
11 Arnaldo Claudio. I would like to greet all of the  
12 officers and the people present here today.

13 It is an honor to appear before this Court  
14 to talk about something that's so fundamental for our  
15 people: Justice and the state of law and order.

16 As we have said before, we will be speaking  
17 about the police reform. It has been a very tough  
18 four-year term. We assumed a country that was in a  
19 deep crises due to excess and from postponing  
20 difficult situations and decisions. The excess, Your  
21 Honor, was not only seen in police duties but in all  
22 of the areas and departments of our government.

23 In five months, I will pass the baton to a  
24 new government, a new administration, that most  
25 certainly will not be the second youngest but the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       third youngest governor -- a government that,  
2       contrary to my own, will receive a country that has  
3       benefitted from all these many changes we're  
4       proposing.

5                 The role of Puerto Rico has been  
6       strengthened as an actor in the global economy.  
7       Pharmaceuticals are growing, medical equipment  
8       distribution is growing. We have revitalized key  
9       sectors of the economy. Agriculture has increased  
10      30 percent in its net income. We have also received  
11      more tourists than ever before in our history. We  
12      have begun a process to restructure public debt.

13               This has been the biggest restructuring  
14      process in the history of the United States. So that  
15      the debt rescheduling does not risk basic services  
16      this is why the restructuring has been done, in order  
17      to ease the heavy burden that in the past was put on  
18      the shoulders of all Puerto Rican men, women,  
19      children, and grandchildren.

20               We want to defend our people. We gave  
21      meaning to Article II, Section 19 of the Puerto Rico  
22      constitution, the power of the Legislative Assembly.  
23      This is why I tell you, Your Honor, that we cannot  
24      separate the changes in the police force from the  
25      rest of the changes that we were forced to put into

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 place as a country.

2 By its own definition, we are an integrated  
3 body, a country. We have common needs and we have  
4 unique resources that are limited, as any other  
5 country. They are all part of a remand and a process  
6 of change and reform so that Puerto Rico can vary  
7 from that tough period with growth and a stronger  
8 economy.

9 We cannot deny the paradigms in the post-war  
10 that made us just look up to the north, but now we  
11 look to Latin America and Europe all while continuing  
12 to look north so that we may also come out of this  
13 with a restructured debt that eases the heavy burden,  
14 a debt resulting from solving immediate problems  
15 while putting future problems on the back burner.  
16 And it just came to haunt us. This is the context  
17 within which we started our four-year term, our  
18 administration. That's the context in which this  
19 suit came up and the context in which the agreement  
20 was formulated.

21 And so, the American Civil Liberties Union  
22 sued the Commonwealth due to the excesses that we  
23 lived for many years -- events with university  
24 students, episodes that I witnessed when I was a  
25 senator on Capitol Hill.

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1                   On September 5, 2011, the section of civil  
2 rights in the federal justice department wrote a  
3 terrible report that it witnessed use of force,  
4 discrimination for ethnic causes and nationality by  
5 our police force, and other violations to civil  
6 liberties on behalf of the police department.

7                   Instead of attacking the report, as a  
8 governor, I decided to attack the problems. This is  
9 what was correct and what the country demanded. We  
10 have the obligation to give the best possible police  
11 force to our people, so we cannot limit this effort  
12 to only The Reform years. The Reform must be the  
13 stepping block for this continuous action in the path  
14 of our people. And it corresponds to all  
15 administration to provide the best police force  
16 possible.

17                  As Your Honor stated, on July 17, 2013, we  
18 reached a historical agreement with the federal  
19 justice department. It was very nice to receive the  
20 Attorney General, at the time Eric Holder, to sign  
21 that historic agreement. The most important  
22 agreement, however, was precisely the agreement we  
23 made with ourselves to make the police reform a  
24 project for our country.

25                  Today your words, Your Honor, evidence that

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       this is not just an administration project, it is not  
2       only a judicial project or that of one agency or  
3       another; it is the project of our country, of the  
4       country where this court resides, where the agencies  
5       reside, where our government resides.

6                  We reach this agreement because the men and  
7        women of the police reform put at risk their lives  
8        every day so that our citizens who live on this  
9        island live safety. And the majority of the members  
10      of the police force do it faithfully and they do what  
11      they promised to do.

12                 And I didn't say citizens, Your Honor,  
13        because one of the communities that presented the  
14        most claims and which are part of this suit are the  
15        communities and members our country who are not  
16        citizens but who should also receive human rights,  
17        because they are human beings and not because they  
18        come from elsewhere.

19                 The federal justice department has reached  
20        similar agreements with police departments in other  
21        jurisdictions of the United States: Detroit, Los  
22        Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, Pittsburgh, and  
23        in Washington, D.C.

24                 According to a report posted in The  
25        Washington Post, in November of last year most police

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 departments have tried to get extensions to comply  
2 with the agreements with the justice department, but  
3 the Police of Puerto Rico has complied with all of  
4 the terms of the agreement reached with the justice  
5 department and has never asked for an extension.  
6 This is not random and it is a topic that I  
7 personally follow continuously.

8 Moreover, as governor I have worked hand in  
9 hand with the federal justice department and the  
10 Attorney General of Puerto Rico Cesar Miranda and all  
11 of the members of the Police of Puerto Rico. This  
12 process has not been contentious. On the contrary,  
13 both parties are committed to reform the Police of  
14 Puerto Rico. This is why I thank from the bottom of  
15 my heart the personnel of the U.S. justice department  
16 and in particular the section of civil rights.  
17 Together we have assigned priority to what needs more  
18 priority.

19 The police department has been part of the  
20 list of priorities which is not an extensive list.  
21 One of our problems as a country is that we give  
22 priority to everything and when everything is  
23 priority by definition nothing really is priority.  
24 The intrinsic nature of priorities is to put some  
25 issues above others. That list only includes health,

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 education, and safety in a broad sense. That level  
2 of priority toward The Reform and this is in my  
3 interest and that of my administration.

4 This is why, Your Honor, in the midst of the  
5 fiscal crisis we have sustained the budget allotted  
6 to comply with the agreement of the police reform,  
7 which is \$20 million a year. And we have complied  
8 with all of the terms such as The Moratorium Act  
9 passed on April last year and the many other fines  
10 that have been imposed in order to guarantee the  
11 continuity of the essential services our country  
12 needs. The fact that we maintained intact the budget  
13 of the police reform in the face of this critical  
14 scenario shows the level of commitment that we have  
15 with The Reform.

16 And, Your Honor, I would like to go further.  
17 While the fiscal crisis has forced us to reduce the  
18 budget for many agencies, the budget of the police as  
19 a department has increased. In other words, while we  
20 have been forced to cut the other operational areas  
21 of the government, we have not touched the police  
22 budget.

23 I would like to talk about one of the key  
24 components of this reform, and it is a key element,  
25 and this is the academy. As Your Honor already said,

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       when I came into the administration the academy was  
2       in the hands of the criminal justice and it was seen  
3       just as academic, it was autonomous from the police  
4       department of Puerto Rico. This concept created  
5       problems that surpassed the benefits.

6                  The time of training and education is  
7       fundamental in the life of a police officer and it is  
8       not correct to leave this training in the hands of an  
9       agency that, since it was autonomous, didn't have the  
10      same interest of the country or of the police  
11      department. Every police officer must have at least  
12      some basic education, but the academy was not there  
13      to support this. The police academy should provide  
14      an experience whereby the cadet must prove if they  
15      can live under the discipline, the code of honor and  
16      integrity, which is essential in order to be a police  
17      officer.

18                  In addition, it is an opportunity for the  
19      cadet to demonstrate whether they can identify and  
20      confront situations where his life is at risk or that  
21      of others. And they must prove that they can perform  
22      in stressful situations without using excessive force  
23      or discriminating based on race, ethnicity,  
24      nationality, social conditions, ideas, religious or  
25      political beliefs, sexual orientation of the person

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       that they intervene with. This is why I dare say  
2       that the academy is one of the most vital resources  
3       of the police and our country. The academy must not  
4       exist outside of the police department.

5                  On June 30, 2014 I approved Law 112 of that  
6       year that returned the academy into the hands of the  
7       police. We needed to do so. And since then the  
8       academy is, again, under the control of the police.  
9       This was a qualitative leap of The Reform. Through  
10      Law 112 we made the academy a subsidiary of the  
11      police department. The rank of auxiliary  
12      superintendent is very important and shows what we  
13      must do. Under the new norms every candidate must  
14      have at least an associate's degree from a licensed  
15      and accredited institution. The cadets receive more  
16      than 900 hours of education in police sciences,  
17      investigation techniques, tactical training,  
18      supervision, interpersonal relations with civilians,  
19      ethics in performing their duty, respect and  
20      protection of civil rights and effective  
21      communication with the communities.

22                  With Law 112 each officer must comply with  
23      at least 12 hours of continuous education, and that  
24      is another qualitative leap. Before, the officer  
25      left the academy once they formed part of the police

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 force. Continuous education should have been a  
2 component always. This is the way it is now, and  
3 this is the commitment that we agreed on. And we  
4 will comply in a coordinated step with the mandate of  
5 that of this Honorable Court.

6 In the most recent academy, March of last  
7 year, the graduates numbered 300 cadets, and they are  
8 the first to graduate from the new academy. I would  
9 have liked to graduate more cadets, but the fiscal  
10 crises avoided it.

11 Another reform was to settle strong bonds  
12 between the police and the communities, as you said  
13 before. This is an objective that we have been  
14 working for and not only in those communities that  
15 had a good relationship with the police officers, but  
16 we also want to establish these bonds in those  
17 communities where the relationship between the police  
18 and the communities have been a source of mistrust,  
19 prejudice and, on occasions, has resulted in violent  
20 acts.

21 In order to reach this agreement, starting  
22 this year the police has held 35 meetings in the 13  
23 different police sectors. And we have met with many  
24 different organizations that defend human rights and  
25 community-based organizations such as the Civil

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       Liberties Union and international amnesty, the center  
2       for helping Dominican Republic females, coordinator  
3       peace for women, the creative lesbian workshop, the  
4       institute for promoting human rights, the commission  
5       of rights of immigrants from the college of  
6       attorneys, and the corporation of legal services  
7       among many others. The Consulate General of the  
8       Dominican Republic in Puerto Rico has also had a  
9       prominent participation.

10           These meetings have served to promote the  
11       guidelines of the police department in order to deal  
12       with immigrants and also the members of the LGBT  
13       community. However, there's much to do. To develop  
14       guidelines is just the first step. Recognizing human  
15       rights is a continuous process.

16           Let's take the case of the United States,  
17       for example, where so much has been furthered since  
18       in the 1860s the abolition of slavery was proclaimed.  
19       And since then so much has been done to fight against  
20       discrimination, racism; and still today there are  
21       fights because of inequality and unjust treatment by  
22       the police of the African American community. This  
23       is a continuous process that is never-ending.

24           Since November of last year the police  
25       department has campaigned so that the people know the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 mechanisms available to report behavior that is not  
2 good by the police. We have identified mechanisms  
3 for the police and the people of Puerto Rico. For  
4 the first time there are laws that prohibit the  
5 police officers to name public officers. Part of the  
6 problems that stained this new institution were  
7 caused by politicians who were in power who forgot  
8 that the police is not a praetorian guard that can be  
9 ordered to attack or who in exercising their civil  
10 rights differ from the government from time to time.

11 This is why on June 30, 2010 when officers,  
12 following the orders of politicians, they clubbed and  
13 attacked college students -- and I will never forget  
14 this because if somewhere should be the form for free  
15 expression it's the immediate area and surroundings  
16 of the Capitol Hill. That's what it's there for.  
17 Likewise, the intervention of the police back then  
18 because they were following instructions of partisans  
19 was the cause that created all of this use of force.

20 Every time that I visit a municipality, Your  
21 Honor, somebody comes to me to ask me to transfer a  
22 family member who lives away from the Metropolitan  
23 area but they work here. Sometimes their petitions  
24 are very particular that could be sustained because  
25 of health reasons or others, but sometimes they tell

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 me that they worked in the campaign; and obviously I  
2 appreciate their work in the political campaign, but  
3 this cannot be the reason to transfer somebody. I  
4 can guarantee to this court that in my administration  
5 transfers are not guided by partisan politics, and I  
6 have many examples of this, and this will continue to  
7 be so.

8 We have proposed legislation that  
9 strengthens prohibitions contained on ethics law and  
10 utilizes employment using government unity to further  
11 partisans ideas. On the other hand, we have ensured  
12 that the women that are in the police force can  
13 occupy positions of power. We have five women  
14 leading districts, four in precincts, two in zones,  
15 and three leading criminal investigation divisions  
16 including San Juan, which is the biggest.

17 The homicide division in San Juan is also  
18 led by a woman. We have ten directors of domestic  
19 violence and 12 in sexual crimes. In total 39  
20 divisions of the police department are led by women.  
21 Actually, we have the first unit of women in the  
22 tactical divisions.

23 This is a historical time when there are  
24 more divisions in the police force led by women.  
25 This is why I dare say that the police has never had

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 so many women in prominent positions. And I  
2 apologize superintendent but maybe this is why we  
3 have so much success now. We hope that this amount  
4 will continue increasing when we break down the  
5 walls, when merit is the only matter that promotes  
6 people in ranks.

7 And I would like, Your Honor, to give you  
8 one last reflection. In the last year after the  
9 tragic events of Ferguson, Missouri, which have been  
10 replicated unfortunately in smaller cities in the  
11 U.S., we have crudely seen the force of police that  
12 shows its worst face in face of citizens that they  
13 should be protecting, and citizens that also show  
14 their worst face in front of police that should be  
15 protected.

16 And we have seen that the police reform is  
17 not exclusive to Puerto Rico. And honestly we don't  
18 want to reach such a breakdown level where the police  
19 and the community see each other as foes, enemies.  
20 This is why it was so important to begin this police  
21 reform and leave it well-guided. There's so much at  
22 stake.

23 Although I will finish my four-year period,,  
24 The Reform has not been finished. It has brought  
25 fundamental changes in education, training and

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 supervision in the Police of Puerto Rico. It's also  
2 brought new equipment, patrol cars, portable  
3 computers, fire weapons, non-lethal weapons, as well  
4 as an air force that is comparable and exceeds that  
5 of any other department of any city in the United  
6 States; and we have achieved this in the midst of the  
7 worst financial crises in our history.

8 Having done so, I submit, Your Honor,  
9 respectfully to you, just as an example, as  
10 Exhibit 1, that this was our priority. I cannot let  
11 this opportunity slip by without publically  
12 acknowledging Superintendent José Luis Caldero for  
13 putting in his hands the future of the country and  
14 his more than three decades of experience at the  
15 service of this reform.

16 Thank you, Superintendent, for putting into  
17 place a plan that has been fundamental to reach the  
18 lowest criminal crime rates in the history of our  
19 country. Homicide have been reduced, Type 1, which  
20 really take the peace away from our people's minds.  
21 To date, this year, Type 1 crimes have been reduced  
22 by six percent versus last year which was the lowest  
23 in 30 years. Murders, compared to last year, have  
24 increased. However, even in face of that increase,  
25 Your Honor, this year at this rate is one of the ones

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       with less murders in the last 30 years. However, we  
2       are not satisfied. You should not be satisfied and  
3       no Puerto Rican men or women should be satisfied with  
4       these figures.

5           I also believe that it is pertinent to say  
6       that a body that used to drag its feet investigating  
7       complaints has become a police force that from 2014  
8       to present has investigated over 75 percent of the  
9       complaints received. And we should thank not only  
10      the superintendent but every man and woman of the  
11      police force that has made these changes possible.

12           Thanks to Colonel Clementina Vega for her  
13       mission to lead from her department this reform, to  
14       the Puerto Rico chapter of the American Civil  
15       Liberties Union for raising the red flag, for  
16       beginning the suit and initiating this reform. It  
17       will be senseless to even mention that this reform  
18       would have happened unless that suit was brought up  
19       in 2012.

20           Thanks to the U.S. State Department,  
21       specially the civil rights division, for putting  
22       their best in this process.

23           I would also like to acknowledge publically  
24       the Department of Justice of Puerto Rico and the  
25       attorneys who represent the Commonwealth of Puerto

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 Rico in this fundamental case in our history.

2 Thanks, Your Honor, and the officers of the court for  
3 supervising this reform with a great sense of  
4 justice.

5 You already mentioned, Your Honor, that I'm  
6 from the countryside, and we people from the country  
7 are distinguished for many things. We drag our Rs,  
8 sometimes we don't congregate words well in English,  
9 but we also make a lot of comparisons with  
10 agriculture. In these last years, Your Honor, we  
11 have cleaned the field, we have improved irrigation,  
12 we sewed the seed and you have been able to see that  
13 we've started to harvest; but harvest is also a  
14 continuous process. It does not end with the first  
15 fruit; it begins with the first fruit.

16 Some fruit will take a long time to reap and  
17 harvest, above all those that have to do with  
18 cultural patterns of discrimination that are so  
19 deeply rooted in our beings. Those cultural patterns  
20 that make people mock foreigners or against those  
21 that love the same but with a different orientation.  
22 Those cultural discriminations practices have been in  
23 place for many decades and breaking them will take  
24 some time.

25 I would request, Your Honor, very dealer for

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 you to continue supervising strictly this reform when  
2 this goes into the hands of the next administration  
3 in November. I would also like to request, Your  
4 Honor, to do everything in your hands so that this  
5 reform forms part of the priorities of the fiscal  
6 board to be appointed by the next president.

7 In my administration we began this reform  
8 together. Your Honor, do not allow that once I  
9 finish as a governor this reform derails its  
10 direction. Please do not allow it. We have begun.  
11 The police has many successes in terms of crime  
12 reduction and recognition of human rights but there  
13 is still a long way to go.

14 Thank you very much, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, Governor. I'm going  
16 to make some brief comments to what you've stated and  
17 then I have a few questions. I have a lot more but  
18 obviously you've touched on it with your comments.

19 So before anything, I know that you talked  
20 about the role of women and The Reform and the  
21 position that they have, and I know that  
22 Superintendent Caldero is very proud of that because  
23 his wife was a police officer and she retired from  
24 the police. So he's very proud of it. So, you don't  
25 have to apologize for all of that, right,

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       Superintendent?

2                   SUPERINTENDENT CALDERO: That is correct.

3                   THE COURT: So, something else that you  
4 mentioned which is interesting sometimes things don't  
5 come out in the public light which happen behind the  
6 scenes with the attorneys when there's hearings in  
7 the court or meetings. You mentioned that there's  
8 never been an extension that's been requested in this  
9 case and that's correct.

10                  There's been times that I know it's Friday  
11 and the document is due on Monday and the parties are  
12 working and they're all working big time. And I say  
13 why don't we give them an extra week? And the  
14 monitor has told me, no, they don't want it, they  
15 want to finish it, and they're working on it. So,  
16 contrary to any other case, criminal or civil,  
17 there's never been a request for an extension. The  
18 case has been moved according to the dates that have  
19 been set and everything's been up-to-date. And  
20 that's something that I have to highlight and it's  
21 important for me to highlight that.

22                  And this case is also a case that has great  
23 importance for Puerto Rico. Beyond that, this case  
24 has a worldwide importance. As we're seeing in the  
25 United States the Department of Justice, since this

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 case was filed 12, 14 more cases have been filed  
2 throughout the United States. And Ferguson was the  
3 last one. Counsel Saucedo sends me periodically --  
4 every time there's a new one he sends me material.  
5 Since the statute was created for these cases there's  
6 been 20 cases filed.

7 So, it's very important because Puerto Rico  
8 is the biggest jurisdiction in which a reform has  
9 taken place. And we're going to be a model not only  
10 for Puerto Rico but also for all the counties,  
11 cities, states or any jurisdiction in the United  
12 States in which this is done. And eventually  
13 worldwide this will also happen. This won't be a  
14 model just of the United States because this is a  
15 worldwide problem.

16 So, it's very important that we're all  
17 involved in this reform. And our roles, you as a  
18 governor, me as a judge, the monitor, the attorneys  
19 for the Department of Justice, that we're all setting  
20 a precedent that maybe your children, if one of them  
21 studies law and civil right, that they're going to  
22 study this type of case.

23 So, in November we have the first national  
24 meeting of the monitoring of the police. That is  
25 going to be in the State of Texas. I will be there

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 invited there, and the judges of federal jurisdiction  
2 are also going to participate. And the  
3 superintendent, this is the weekend before elections  
4 so obviously your presence is required. But I really  
5 thank Colonel Fraley of the academy is going to  
6 participate in that program, because I believe that  
7 we have model academy that other jurisdictions  
8 follow. And she's going to participate in the panel  
9 there also. So, I think we're going to be an example  
10 of all this which is a growing wave.

11 And some things that are also very  
12 important, the Ferguson case of the United States has  
13 to do a lot with discrimination against black people.  
14 In Puerto Rico, we rarely see a racial discrimination  
15 case, be it black or white, the big problem you  
16 mentioned here is the Dominican Republic community.  
17 Our Dominican Republic community here, be it legal or  
18 illegally or in process of being legal, they've been  
19 discriminated against historically.

20 And also the LGBT -- I always say it wrong,  
21 but the LBTTT community have also been discriminated  
22 against. This reform also attacks that issue here  
23 south of the United States or in other areas, but  
24 here it's the equivalent of what happens over there.

25 I also want to highlight the ACLU, but

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 before that there were many individual attorneys who  
2 brought cases and the Department of Justice  
3 represented them. Many of these cases it came to the  
4 point of a settlement and the Attorney General saw  
5 what happened and most of these cases were settled.  
6 But it's very important to highlight that if it  
7 wasn't for those attorneys and the ACLU we wouldn't  
8 have seen all the information that eventually the  
9 Federal Government obtained which is part of the  
10 complaint. So, that's very important.

11 Something else that is important for The  
12 Reform but also in Puerto Rico the mayor of San Juan,  
13 Carmen Yulín Cruz; the mayor of Ponce, Mayita, both  
14 of them -- the mayor of Ponce participated in the  
15 public hearings but the mayor of San Juan wants to  
16 adopt -- we saw her at the graduation of the academy,  
17 and she wants to adopt administratively everything  
18 concerning The Reform because it benefits her. So,  
19 we're having an impact not only outside of Puerto  
20 Rico but in Puerto Rico. María Meléndez is Mayita.

21 So, it's very important and we have other  
22 mayors from different regions that they've stated  
23 their interest, although they're not part of The  
24 Reform, in following these steps.

25 Something else that I want to acknowledge

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 from your administration when you came in there was  
2 in effect several task forces which are the state  
3 police that collaborated with the federal officers  
4 and vice versa. And you, as governor, you took the  
5 decision -- you left the task forces in place. In  
6 fact, you designated additional officers.

7 So, this has been very important and I  
8 believe this is one of the reasons why crime has been  
9 reduced; because, if I'm not mistaken, in 2010 there  
10 were 1,200 murders and last year it was down to 600.  
11 They've gone up a little bit this year but much less  
12 than in other years. And those task forces since  
13 they were started in 2010 or 11 they've continued  
14 working, and since last term to this one murders have  
15 continued to go down. One murder is always more than  
16 enough, but this cannot be done from one day to the  
17 next.

18 So, it's very important the officers that  
19 you have imposed in the Federal Government because  
20 they give us a lot of assistance. Sometimes our  
21 federal officers don't speak Spanish. They have good  
22 techniques, they know how to do certain things that  
23 the officers here are not trained to do, but they  
24 work together with the state officers. And if it  
25 weren't for this concerted effort in working with the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       federal officers, we wouldn't have the number of  
2       cases we have. The number of cases that you see here  
3       it's impressive.

4                 And something else that's impressive when  
5       you came into power and you came into the governor's  
6       office there was obviously a transition, the Attorney  
7       General changed and other public officers changed,  
8       the superintendent changed. But one of the things  
9       that I do remember for a period of a year and a half  
10      you worked with the police and the Attorney Marxuach  
11      who had been advisor to Governor Fortuño and you  
12      continued until The Reform was signed.

13               And I believe you were a crucial person.  
14       And this is important because had we changed  
15      everybody and began anew with people that wouldn't  
16      know anything about this change, we would be  
17      beginning with this again. So, it's very important  
18      to acknowledge and I hope that your successor  
19      recognizes this.

20               We have to recognize that there's people  
21      that eventually are going to do other things but  
22      there's some people that are key and who know The  
23      Reform better than anyone. And I hope the next  
24      person who comes uses those resources; because many  
25      of these people have been committed to The Reform,

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 it's not one administration in particular. They are  
2 public servants who want to see this come to  
3 fruition. So, I believe that when the next  
4 administration comes in that these people can  
5 contribute as much as possible. And whomever want to  
6 continue as volunteers, I ask that they please do so  
7 and incorporate themselves.

8 So with those comments I have some brief  
9 questions. Obviously you spoke of some achievements  
10 and goals that you believe are important, but which  
11 one do you think within The Reform if you could tell  
12 us -- this'll be like those talk-shows, I ask a  
13 question and you give the answer.

14 So within The Reform if you could tell us  
15 which one do you believe, as brief as possible, which  
16 has been the biggest achievement that you've reached  
17 in The Reform?

18 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Well.

19 THE COURT: Incorporating everything you  
20 said.

21 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Yes. Well, from  
22 the perspective of the people that represent the  
23 country, what people want from the police is that  
24 crime is reduced and that the police protect them and  
25 don't assault them. I think that the country is

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       feeling that there's been a change in these last  
2       years; that is, that the police is there to protect  
3       them. It's not always been successful, but it has  
4       stopped being a partisan or political discussion and  
5       has become a social one.

6                  The main achievement has been the police  
7       gaining the trust of the people. And it's a process,  
8       it hasn't concluded. But the trend whereby the  
9       people weren't trusting the police has been reversed.  
10      The people little by little have been trusting of the  
11     police.

12               THE COURT: The next question is, on  
13       January 9th we'll know who will be your successor --

14               GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: In November. We  
15       don't have to wait that long. November 9th.

16               THE COURT: November 9th. When said person  
17       is going to Fortaleza to meet with you, which would  
18       you say is the biggest challenge regarding The  
19       Reform? If you were to give advise, what advise  
20       would you give your successor?

21               GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: That that person  
22       has to continue The Reform, and that in order to  
23       continue The Reform that person cannot give into the  
24       political pleasure that he/she is going to feel to  
25       control the Puerto Rico Police politically. I felt

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       that way. Some of the things you've mentioned were  
2       true, at times ones feels political pressure that one  
3       has to resist. And the next governor, in order to  
4       continue The Reform, that person cannot give in to  
5       partisan politics pressure.

6              People who today lead divisions of the  
7       police, people that are very connected -- and I don't  
8       want to state their positions -- to The Reform are  
9       people within the police who are said to be from this  
10       party or the opposing party, a party of which I have  
11       participated in elections and of which I'm a member.  
12       But one must be firm.

13             And when promotions are going to be given,  
14       promotions can be given to people that are in the  
15       party but it's because they are good at their jobs  
16       and that's why the raise has been given regardless of  
17       which party the person is a member. So, resisting  
18       the temptation of leading the police electorally is  
19       something that the next governor has to try and do.  
20       If they don't, this reform won't continue.

21              THE COURT: What role -- what is your  
22       vision? Because from my judicial perspective I like  
23       a case to reach me, I'll resolve the case. There can  
24       be an injunction permit, the order can be resolved.  
25       But this is a case in which I already issued the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 judgment, the agreement, but I retained jurisdiction.  
2 And from the point of view of a judge, sometimes I  
3 feel there's little -- and I don't say it negatively,  
4 but I think it's judicially offensive to be  
5 micromanaging the issues of the state, at least in  
6 this case, regarding the police for such a long time.

7 Sometimes it could be a necessary evil for a  
8 short period of time. And now that the oversight  
9 board is coming -- until the oversight board is in  
10 place we have the oversight of Gelpí.

11 So, how do you see the intervention of  
12 having a monitor? Is it something positive? We all  
13 want this intervention to be as short as possible,  
14 but from your perspective, you're also an attorney,  
15 of federalism of nations which are governed with both  
16 federal and state relationships. I mean, this is the  
17 first time this happens here, but what could you  
18 mention about that?

19 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Your Honor, I  
20 think that it's not only an issue of federalism but a  
21 separation of powers. It's not your mission to  
22 manage the Police of Puerto Rico, but the truth is  
23 that there are some facts that gave rise to  
24 complaints and they had merit and they were true.  
25 And those facts violated civil rights that created

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 some controversies which you have the duty of  
2 resolving. For the future, not for the fact in  
3 itself.

4 So, that's why today my petition to the  
5 Court is that The Reform not be allowed to stop.  
6 Based on the improvisation of bad practice was the  
7 result of decades of bad practices, and they won't  
8 change one day to the next. It doesn't change like  
9 that. It's no longer the police of *siete maravillas*  
10 [seven wonders]. It's other bad practices that harm  
11 the essence of human rights simply for being a human  
12 being independent of where he/she was born or their  
13 citizenship, independent of their sexual orientation,  
14 independent of their physical appearance.

15 In this case, the mission of the Court is a  
16 two-fold mission. It has to ensure some things to  
17 the country in its traditional duties of solving  
18 controversy. Let me go further. My mother says that  
19 this is where I get corso. They come from Spain.  
20 And sometimes you have an angel on your shoulder  
21 saying, Don't say this, but you can't resist.

22 Without the complaint, without this case  
23 that was before you, I would have found public  
24 objection to many of the things that we've been able  
25 to reform. If it wasn't because this case is alive,

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 I would have found public opposition to return the  
2 academy to the police. I would have found opposition  
3 to depoliticize the transfers and promotions. I  
4 would have found public opposition to submit police  
5 officers to -- help me, Judge. How do you translate  
6 P.T. test? The physical test.

7 The first time that I proposed it as a  
8 senator I received public criticism. In fact, I was  
9 told that I should really challenge a police officer  
10 to see if I could beat him running a mile. As if  
11 that's what it was about.

12 So, the police reform has gone through the  
13 public scrutiny with little opposition because it's  
14 in this court. And don't let it go, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Thank you. Well, the other  
16 thing that I wanted to say, and you've mentioned it,  
17 was the de-politicization of the police. And that's  
18 important. And let me tell you something, it's  
19 interesting. I was not a presiding judge here yet,  
20 but in the eighties I was an attorney in federal  
21 court but you had the First Circuit and the Supreme  
22 Court, and the end of the eighties and beginning of  
23 the nineties there was discrimination. Every time  
24 there's a change in government, it was something that  
25 was incredible the public funds and municipal funds

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       that were spent. And these are also things that you  
2       would not for that.

3                  But the Government Development Bank the  
4       money that it gave for transactions such as this was  
5       in the millions throughout the years, and this is all  
6       administrations, all municipalities. And I think  
7       it's a culture that at the central government level,  
8       just like the cases of violation of civil rights and  
9       abuse of force, have been reduced. And I think this  
10      culture is reducing. It hasn't ended, we still have  
11      cases that settle, but it's not at the volume we've  
12      seen in previous years. Let's see what happens in  
13      this change of government.

14                 But one of the things that happened -- and  
15       this is something I've always said publically -- and  
16       also at these hearings I asked Governor  
17       Hernández-Colón, also the superintendent, and I  
18       believe the secretary of justice as well. At the  
19       federal level we have federal employees, even judges.  
20       We have federal employees who work for the United  
21       States be they Democrat, Republicans. Whether Donald  
22       Trump wins or whether Hillary Clinton wins, we're  
23       loyal to the Constitution and laws of the United  
24       States.

25                 In Puerto Rico, the Hatch Act, when Sila

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 Calderón was governor, the administration made a mini  
2 Hatch Act. I think it was for the department of  
3 justice, the governor's office, the department of  
4 state, and even transportation; but it was just  
5 there. And I think that recently you signed a law,  
6 and when you were away the secretary of state would  
7 make their appearance saying that the Puerto Rico  
8 Aqueduct and Sewer Authority [PRASA] and the Puerto  
9 Rico Electric Power authority [PREPA] basically  
10 they're being applied something very similar to the  
11 Hatch Act.

12 My question is -- and obviously you're not  
13 running for governor again. You're not going to  
14 elections so you can maybe say things you don't want  
15 to say. But as governor for the future of Puerto  
16 Rico, the day that your sons are older and they want  
17 to work for the government or they're public servants  
18 or any other person who wants to go into government,  
19 what do you believe is the next administration should  
20 evaluate having a Hatch Act? And specifically I say  
21 it's regarding the Puerto Rico Police. Do you  
22 believe this would be something sustainable,  
23 something good and positive?

24 Obviously I know. And I know the other  
25 ex-governors and I've known many police officers

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 throughout the years. And right now sometimes you  
2 know them, and I've been helping and advancing of  
3 such and such. And it's as you said, if he wins,  
4 I'll be here, and if they lose they'll also go  
5 somewhere else.

6 But in the Puerto Rico police do you  
7 think --

8 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: And if he loses,  
9 we also have to go someplace else.

10 THE COURT: But do you think as the  
11 superintendent does that there should be some type of  
12 Hatch Act or some type of order in the police and  
13 possibly in the rest of the government of Puerto  
14 Rico. What is being done so that these trust  
15 positions, this practice -- because here in Puerto  
16 Rico it's been years, so that it ends once and for  
17 all?

18 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Without a doubt,  
19 Your Honor. And in fact one of the first things I  
20 did as governor was a law that prohibited public  
21 employees to donate money to political parties, as  
22 the Hatch Act states. And this was a message I had  
23 prepared for the first gubernatorial speech. And  
24 that was something that had to be changed. It was  
25 declared unconstitutional.

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1           But regarding the intervention of  
2 politicians and the appointment and in the movement  
3 of personnel or public corporations we have been able  
4 to do so. These are two bills that we presented in  
5 our administration and restructuring of the Puerto  
6 Rico Electric Power and Authority, and these they  
7 haven't been discussed.

8           These are two elements that are public  
9 corporations that have been very politicized and that  
10 we turned into law and the public discussions have  
11 been very little. And I think something needs to be  
12 done throughout the government elected positions  
13 should not be an employment agency. And  
14 unfortunately the elected officials look at  
15 themselves as an employment agency, they think that  
16 that's their duty. And I think that's not correct  
17 for many reasons including for political reasons that  
18 I'll allow the Court to state.

19           THE COURT: Well, if you can do so, this  
20 will help your successor.

21           GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: If there's a  
22 position in the police and I become a selected  
23 official and a person who, among other things,  
24 facilitate the possibility that a person from my  
25 party has that position, 20 persons from my party are

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 going to come to request that position. There's one  
2 position and I'm going to make one person happy and  
3 I'm going to make 19 others mad.

4 So, I thought that this practice didn't  
5 exist. I read it in a book during my studies in the  
6 law. If I'm not mistake, it was Governor Muñoz-Marin  
7 who used to say it. When it happened to me, I  
8 couldn't believe it.

9 If an elected official tells me or  
10 recommends a person for one position and tells me  
11 that he/she is the best qualified person for that  
12 position, but then I'll receive more than one letter  
13 from that same elected official that that person's  
14 the best qualified. So, I have letters from mayors,  
15 for example, from legislators, leaders from my party  
16 for one position recommending three persons and  
17 telling me that each one of those persons is the best  
18 qualified for the position.

19 THE COURT: That must be that each person  
20 gave a copy of the letter and they weren't 20 other  
21 letters, and the officer and everybody was happy with  
22 that elected official.

23 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: But once that  
24 person is selected, the others get mad at the elected  
25 official.

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1                   THE COURT: I think that this is something  
2 that should be explored. When I saw the news that  
3 the water authority and the electric power authority  
4 had taken certain measures. And I have to  
5 congratulate them publically. I've always encouraged  
6 any administration to limit this because it's an evil  
7 that still permeates. It's been reduced, but it's  
8 always around.

9                   Okay. Another question that I had -- and  
10 for those of you who are here, we're almost done,  
11 two-thirds of the questions have been asked. One of  
12 the things that I requested that you do in this case  
13 and in order to keep informed day of day of The  
14 Reform process -- and I know that the Attorney  
15 General has told me that you and he speak almost  
16 daily and also the superintendent.

17                  And I took this from the Morales-Feliciano  
18 case that you have an officer that comes daily to  
19 these hearings that you appointed a public safety  
20 officer to do so. And I want to ask, not only the  
21 superintendent to come and manage that the security  
22 meetings that are conducted weekly, but I also know  
23 the attorney speaks to the monitor when there's  
24 issues. There may be times when the secretary of  
25 justice if there's a crises speaks to the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 superintendent and the monitor speaks with her. How  
2 useful has this been to have this position, this  
3 person appointed to the position of this practice?

4 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: My recommendation,  
5 if it helps in anything, is to continue with it;  
6 because just like you say in English. Hands on. In  
7 order for me to react to the needs that arise, I have  
8 to have the information. And having an officer from  
9 Fortaleza with the information up-to-date, it allows  
10 instructions to be given and they could flow easily.  
11 And it's useful in cases related to The Reform of the  
12 police and other issues.

13 I mean, as César Miranda has informed you --  
14 in fact, we have daily communications and with the  
15 superintendent as well, but the follow-up of that  
16 information is done at other levels. And there has  
17 to be that direct contact, that continuous direct  
18 contact.

19 THE COURT: Thank you. Something else that  
20 comes to mind and which has been important throughout  
21 your four year term -- and this was begun by the  
22 secretary of justice, I think the police is also like  
23 that. Previously the economy we thought it was  
24 better, there was more money for other things. Had  
25 this occurred years ago, I guarantee you that you

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 would not only have the secretary of justice, but  
2 you'd have four attorneys. It would've happened  
3 under any administration. You'd have four attorneys  
4 from an incredible law firm from Washington, D.C. and  
5 maybe several attorneys from one or two law firms  
6 from here in Puerto Rico as co-counsel; but the  
7 attorneys that work here have been internal  
8 attorneys.

9 The attorneys from the Department of Justice  
10 here it was a career position attorney. I know that  
11 previously not only this case, but Morales-Feliciano  
12 and also in the case of the dairy industry, a lot of  
13 these a large cases. I also have the health reform,  
14 the case of the 330 centers. But they've been  
15 internal attorneys from the Department of Justice.

16 So, obviously this saves millions to the  
17 Government of Puerto Rico. It also gives confidence  
18 to the attorneys of Puerto Rico. And I remember with  
19 the Department of Justice there was external law  
20 firms, and I would think why don't they choose us.  
21 When I was Attorney General I would say to the  
22 governor that I was going to go to New York and I can  
23 argue this in the Second Circuit.

24 Do you believe that this practice has been a  
25 good one? I mean, the talent is here. You don't

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 prove it in this case, it's been proven; but do you  
2 have anything to say about it?

3 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: I think that those  
4 with the expertise which we have at the Department of  
5 Justice should continue in the Department of Justice.  
6 César Miranda refers to them as a dream team. Maybe,  
7 Your Honor, it's the fact that not long ago I was  
8 also a young attorney. Sometimes I still believe it  
9 until I look at myself in the mirror. But they're  
10 totally capable and they've shown it in court.

11 And I think that that external contracting  
12 should be limited on occasions where some expertise  
13 is needed in the law to litigate a controversy. When  
14 that expert's specific expertise is not in the  
15 department, then external attorneys should be used.

16 THE COURT: Something else that happens.  
17 Here is the TCA Colonel Claudio. He periodically  
18 presents quarterly reports.

19 Quarterly; right?

20 TCA COLONEL CLAUDIO: Every six months.

21 THE COURT: Every six months. I get ahead  
22 of myself. But when I receive those reports, when  
23 the report arrives, how useful is that report? In  
24 your mind -- I know you see a lot of things  
25 considered achievements that are consistently being

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 done. There are two or three areas which have their  
2 deficiencies. And I want to make clear, usually the  
3 public looks and says, Oh, well, the TCA found such  
4 and such deficiency and this a scolding to the  
5 superintendent, and then there's an issue where there  
6 really is no issue. And it's just like when you have  
7 a son of yours who from eight classes he has five As,  
8 one B plus, and a C. Then you say, okay, let's  
9 improve on the C and let's continue with the other  
10 grades.

11 But how useful are these reports for you?  
12 What do you do when you review them? What  
13 instructions do you give? And whatever else you want  
14 to say about that.

15 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: I read it before  
16 calling the Secretary of Justice César Miranda or  
17 Superintendent Caldero. And I read it before so I  
18 can get to know what's the opinion of the TCA, and  
19 then I talk about it with them to see what their  
20 opinion is. And sometimes they agree on what the  
21 findings are and sometimes they don't, but that's the  
22 process. If the reports of the TCA or the opinion of  
23 the secretary of justice were that everything is  
24 perfect in the police reform, I would doubt that.

25 I don't know if it's called the same, but

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       when I was in private practice we see the JTS. I  
2       imagine that now it's all electronic. And I can be  
3       in favor or against the determination of the court,  
4       but I have to know it. I think the best analogy,  
5       Your Honor, is to be up-to-date with what happens in  
6       The Reform.

7                  There's been controversy in which I've asked  
8       for them to be corrected. And there's been  
9       controversy that I have backed the decision of the  
10      superintendent, but one has to be hands-on in what's  
11      happening with The Reform to be able to react and not  
12      only to react but to be pro active in order to comply  
13      with the agreement reached with the federal  
14      Department of Justice.

15                 THE COURT: But let me say that, as of  
16      today, I think it was yesterday in the evening, some  
17      comments were filed regarding the last report, and I  
18      think that these comments, and they're public, are  
19      excellent. They mention the areas that are most  
20      negatively stated in the report.

21                 We're talking about, like I said, there  
22      could be some As, some Bs and some Ds, but the  
23      reaction of the Department of Justice I think has  
24      been, and throughout all this time, it's been  
25      excellent; because it's not that this happened and

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       this happened, it's just that we differ regarding a  
2       few things, this is the issue. But instead of going  
3       back and forth, they're saying, We're taking these  
4       steps to cure these issues and improve on this.

5                  And counsel is here who prepared it with the  
6       secretary of justice, and I wanted to commend them  
7       because I think that this has been -- all of them  
8       have been very good but this one has been very  
9       concise; it's eight pages and they go straight to the  
10      point.

11                 And what the police is saying is we differ  
12      from the TCA in this or that but, no excuses, this is  
13      what we're going to do and this is what we've been  
14      doing. Do you believe that's how the government  
15      should react?

16                 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: I haven't read the  
17      one from last night but, yes, it has to be like that.  
18      It has to be like that. The police reform cannot be  
19      seen in a contentious perspective -- the Court, the  
20      parties, it cannot be seen like that.

21                 There's two parties here: The police and  
22      the country. The country has some claims and the  
23      police has a duty. The police has to comply with  
24      protecting the country and that the people feel  
25      protected by the police. Those are the parties. And

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       the relationship cannot be contentious. It cannot be  
2       like that.

3                   THE COURT: And let me comment on something  
4       you said. I'd never seen it this way but I think is  
5       very curious. As governor you represent the police  
6       but you also represent the people of Puerto Rico, so  
7       basically -- because the government of the United  
8       States is in the case but it's for the citizens, for  
9       the people of Puerto Rico, U.S. citizens and whatever  
10      foreigners that are here, but basically you are  
11      representing both parties. So, it's a *sui generis*  
12      role as well from your point of view, and I'd never  
13      thought of it like that.

14                  But I want to now briefly talk about one of  
15      the subjects that's been the one that I know most  
16      about in The Reform and one of my favorite ones. All  
17      of them are very important, but this has been one  
18      I've had a lot of opportunity to go into, which is  
19      the police academy.

20                  You've spoken about your policy and your  
21      administration regarding the police academy. And  
22      obviously this academy is important because it's  
23      backed by The Reform. I, as a judge, was not  
24      involved but it was more an agreement that was  
25      reached within the parties to have this type

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 of academy.

2 And personally I went to two of the award  
3 ceremonies that occurred where the now Colonel  
4 Clementina Vega promoted. And I also went to the  
5 graduation that you had to go to Washington, D.C., we  
6 know why. But I was there and the secretary of state  
7 was there in your place, which was of all the police  
8 that were graduating including municipal police  
9 officers. And it was an incredible experience.

10 I also had one visit at the academy where I  
11 saw the use of batons, the use of Tasers. On another  
12 visit I wasn't there, but the monitor volunteered to  
13 be Tased, and he survived. But I think that the  
14 academy is very important.

15 And you also as an attorney and obviously I  
16 as a judge, and of course I am an attorney, the  
17 Puerto Rico Supreme Court constantly issues decisions  
18 based on the bill of rights; the Supreme Court of the  
19 United States also does so. Very recently one of the  
20 last opinions gives more tools the police officers to  
21 stop people and contains parameters which gives more  
22 flexibility for the Terry stops.

23 And if it's a case of mistaken identity,  
24 before you make a mistake -- for example, if an  
25 officer in a patrol car asks for a license, and

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 initially when they stopped somebody it was illegal.  
2 If the person later had something pending or a  
3 criminal record, they can arrest them. And the  
4 Supreme Court in a very dissenting opinion from Judge  
5 Sotomayor, it gives a lot of flexibility to make the  
6 arrest for these types of things.

7 And I think it's also important for the  
8 academy that the police officers -- for example, one  
9 of the things that I've spoken about with Colonel  
10 Fraley who is here, which is important, because  
11 tomorrow an opinion from the Supreme Court can come  
12 down that can help the police, but there can come  
13 down one saying that this type of arrest is illegal.

14 Just like you said, someone entered the  
15 academy and they retired 30 years later, and they  
16 would hit someone with the nightstick like they  
17 learned 30 years ago. And if it's not legal, then  
18 the decision of the Supreme Court they don't know it.  
19 And I believe the academy will help tremendously with  
20 this endeavor in the sense that there's lawyers,  
21 officers that must be instructed that that practice  
22 cannot be done anymore. Because it isn't enough to  
23 say that it's a memorandum, they have to go back to  
24 the academy to be trained.

25 What do you believe regarding that? I think

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 you agree with me, but I think that the academy is  
2 one of the most important things we have here.

3 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Yes. It has its  
4 duty. We also encourage police officer to have an  
5 academic degree. The academy doesn't handle that.  
6 When they already at the academy they must already  
7 know that. So, if a person of that culture arrives  
8 at the police academy, it's not our job to give them  
9 that academic degree. We have to train them as  
10 police officers.

11 So, I remember that beginning the new  
12 academy a cadet complained that he had to work a lot.  
13 And I remember the answer that the colonel gave  
14 publically, she said, "This isn't a summer camp."  
15 And I thought it was very eloquent. We're going to  
16 train police officers there, men and women, who must  
17 be prepared to react accordingly in situations of a  
18 lot of stress, in situations of a lot of complexity.

19 Recently I was informed by the  
20 superintendent by the superintendent and the  
21 secretary of justice of a case very recently where  
22 some police officers did not tend to the intervention  
23 they had to do where a person that was transsexual  
24 was involved in this situation. And what this shows  
25 us is that we have continuous work to do with the

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 police just like military personnel have to go to  
2 continuing education for training, just like  
3 attorneys have to go to continuing education, just  
4 like doctors have to go to continuing education.

5 So, the duties of the police officer in our  
6 society cannot continue to be -- and thank God we're  
7 seeing less and less cases of police misconduct.

8 They're function is vital in our society. So, it's  
9 not only the 900 hours that they have to graduate --  
10 more than 900 plus hours. It's not only the training  
11 that they receive there, but it's the training they  
12 have to receive every year.

13 Just to give you an example, on a particular  
14 day the Supreme Court resolved that one must have  
15 probable cause to go into the rights of privacy when  
16 intervening with a citizen. That just happened one  
17 day, it hadn't happened before. And one day the  
18 Supreme Court of Puerto Rico decided that before  
19 arresting somebody or while under arrest you had to  
20 tell them that they had a right to remain silent,  
21 that anything they say can be used against them in a  
22 court of law, that they had a right to an attorney.

23 And then the Supreme Court in the case of  
24 *Miranda versus Arizona*, if I'm not mistaken, they  
25 added that if they don't have an attorney, one will

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       be provided for you. But that wasn't there before.  
2       So, police officers who continue arresting -- and I  
3       imagine it still happens in court -- have the case  
4       thrown out because the admission of a detainee, if  
5       challenged when it was submitted, the police officer  
6       had not read that person their rights. So, that's  
7       something the police officer has to know; he/she has  
8       to be trained to do it. One does what one is trained  
9       to do. So, not only do I agree, it's a requirement  
10      which doesn't work without The Reform.

11                  THE COURT: Well, Governor, it's almost  
12      three o'clock and I know that you have many other  
13      commitments.

14                  GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: I prefer to be  
15      here than to tend to some of the other commitments.

16                  THE COURT: I can give you an injunction and  
17      you can stay here until November 9th.

18                  GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Preferably in one  
19      of the other rooms that are more protected, I have no  
20      problem.

21                  THE COURT: Well, thank you very much.  
22      You're excused. And I'll ask if any other parties  
23      wants to react to any of this. We haven't concluded  
24      the hearing, but, Governor, you may be excused. And  
25      within the next four-year term the monitor and I

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 would love to hear from you again so you can share  
2 your perspective on The Reform. Thank you.

3 GOVERNOR GARCÍA-PADILLA: Thank you, Your  
4 Honor. Permission to withdraw. Can I be excused,  
5 Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Yes you may. Granted.

7 Well, before recessing, I would like to give  
8 a brief opportunity, a minute or two, to the  
9 secretary of justice and Mr. Saucedo, if they want to  
10 make any last remarks before we close our hearing.  
11 And the monitor, I'll give you 30 seconds because if  
12 I don't give him a limit, he can be here until 5:00.  
13 So, if the monitor wants to make a very brief  
14 comment, as well as any other party, you're welcome.  
15 Mr. Saucedo.

16 MR. SAUCEDO: Your Honor, we want to thank  
17 the Court again for giving us all an opportunity to  
18 listen to the governor and to listen about his  
19 priorities and what worked and what needs to remain  
20 as part of this case.

21 All of these cases demand a lot of attention  
22 around the country. Today we issued findings in  
23 Baltimore, Maryland after an extensive investigation  
24 there. So, this work is difficult but it's  
25 necessary. And we want to thank the Commonwealth for

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 being a partner with us and implementing this  
2 agreement.

3 THE COURT: And I think having the governor  
4 here come to the hearing voluntarily sets a  
5 precedent; because you have mayors, city officials,  
6 who may not want to come voluntarily, and at least  
7 you can say if the governor comes, there's no reason  
8 why you cannot come. So, thank you very much.

9 Attorney Miranda.

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL MIRANDA: Your Honor, I  
11 echo the commitment of Attorney Saucedo on behalf of  
12 the federal department of justice. This is a matter  
13 of working as a team for the people of Puerto Rico.

14 It has been my honor to work directly in  
15 this group and I am extremely proud of the work done  
16 by the attorneys of the justice department. They  
17 have been fully devoted and committed to the police  
18 department. They have identified the communities  
19 that have clamored for their rights to be heard. We  
20 are not here to deviate the knowledge of the people  
21 when there's a violation. When there is a violation,  
22 we want it to be known. And this is the instruction  
23 to all of the attorneys of the Department of Justice.  
24 We're not here to hide anything.

25 Recently there was a case against a

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1           transsexual young person and we took immediate  
2           action. When Mr. Claudio, the TCA, points out  
3           anything we're not going to hide anything. We're  
4           going to correct it. This is what the people of  
5           Puerto Rico can expect from each one of us.

6           And I thank you for mentioning the  
7           participation of the young attorneys of the justice  
8           department. We have much talent in Puerto Rico. You  
9           were the solicitor general of this country and you  
10          know all of the talent that we have. And these  
11          attorneys are proud to represent the people of Puerto  
12          Rico and they are proud to safeguard the interest of  
13          the people.

14          This is the position we had and we will  
15          continue assuming this position and always in harmony  
16          with the TCA. The police department and the  
17          representatives of the justice department, and  
18          obviously with your support, Your Honor, which has  
19          been very, very good for us and we appreciate it.  
20          It's invaluable.

21          THE COURT: Thank you very much. Yes, for  
22          purposes of the record, *procurador general* in English  
23          is solicitor general.

24          We're going to conclude now with some brief  
25          comments from the TCA. He didn't know I was going to

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 ask him to speak, but since he's here he's free to  
2 make some brief comments, and any question that you  
3 want to ask the TCA about this hearing in particular  
4 he has been authorized by me to address the press  
5 after we conclude this session.

6 And the last thing I want to say before I  
7 forget, this is the fourth public hearing. This  
8 fourth public hearing will continue on September 1st  
9 and 2nd in Mayagüez. The reason why we did this  
10 special session is because to take the governor to  
11 Mayagüez he had to go in a car for two hours or in a  
12 helicopter, and that will be too cumbersome for him.  
13 This is why we held this special session here, but  
14 this is part of the public hearing in Mayagüez. And,  
15 once again, we commend the governor for being here.  
16 We thought it would be an hour and he was here two  
17 hours. So, the fourth public hearing will continue  
18 September 1st and 2nd in the west coast in Mayagüez.

19 So, Mr. Claudio, you're the only thing that  
20 keeps us here from leaving. Take your time, but  
21 whether you speak in English or Spanish, any  
22 commentaries are welcome.

23 TCA CLAUDIO: Thank you, Your Honor. And I  
24 thank Your Honor for giving us the opportunity to  
25 express ourselves in front of you, the parties, and

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 the superintendent.

2 But there's some people here who are also so  
3 important. We have representatives of the Dominican  
4 community, Mr. Rodriguez. We have Papo Christian who  
5 is also present here. We also have Tati Escobar from  
6 Ponce --

7 THE COURT: So, we'll probably see them in  
8 Ponce again.

9 TCA CLAUDIO: Yes. This is a team effort  
10 between the TCA, the police department or the  
11 secretary, and the community. I want to say that the  
12 conversations with the superintendent will continue.  
13 They are fun, they fruitful. And yesterday we had a  
14 specific meeting regarding some operations that  
15 obviously we cannot mention today, but these are the  
16 times that people should understand that there is  
17 daily conversation with the police department of  
18 Puerto Rico.

19 I've always said that Colonel Clementina  
20 Vega and her reform team, the TCA team, us, we are in  
21 constant communication and we meet every month with  
22 the new attorneys, like they say, to forge the future  
23 of the police department in Puerto Rico in terms of  
24 policies, general orders, instruction, training,  
25 philosophy, professionalizing this elite group that

## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1 my father was a part of. On his behalf we assure  
2 Your Honor that my team will move on and continue  
3 this mission performing so that this reform takes  
4 place.

5 And with the governor's declaration today,  
6 his statements, and with the department of justice  
7 through Mr. Saucedo with the secretary of justice  
8 César Miranda, I believe today we have solidified a  
9 crucial moment within the police reform so that this  
10 will become a reality not only for us but for the  
11 people of Puerto Rico.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. And we have hereby  
13 concluded these proceedings. Tomorrow we will go to  
14 Ponce, Puerto Rico and we'll be continue discussing  
15 The Reform for the health department. We will  
16 continue there tomorrow. Thanks for being here and  
17 see you soon.

18 (Public Hearing concluded at 3:03 p.m.)

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## Part 1 - Fourth Public Hearing

1       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT      )

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3    ) ss.

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CERTIFICATE

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10    I, EVILYS E. CARRIÓN-ESQUILÍN, hereby

11    certify that the proceedings are contained fully and

12    accurately, to the best of my ability, in the notes

13    recorded stenographically by me through the use of

14    Spanish interpreters, at the public hearing in the

15    above matter; and that the foregoing is a true and

16    accurate transcript of the same.

17

18    /s/ Evilys E. Carrión-Esquilín

19

20    EVILYS E. CARRIÓN-ESQUILÍN, RPR  
Official Court Reporter  
United States District Court  
Federal Building, Room 200  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918  
787-772-3377

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